

The Wind in the Willows

Kenneth Grahame

How does Toad turn genuine kindness into evidence of his own importance?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Toad misreads kindness as admiration
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Chapter VIII · Toad's Adventures
START	Toad sat up on end once more, dried his eyes, sipped his tea and munched his toast, and soon began talking freely about himself
END	she was a comely lass, and evidently admired him very much.
PASSAGE ID	sec-ww-03

THE MOVE

Infer character through self-serving interpretation

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The girl treats Toad with practical kindness, but Toad interprets her attention as admiration for his charm and importance. His self-serving reading of the situation tells us more about him than her behavior does.

MARK

Underline what the girl actually says or does for Toad. Circle the places where Toad interprets those actions as admiration. Write EVIDENCE beside her behavior and TOAD'S VERSION beside his conclusions.

NOTICE

- What evidence shows kindness or curiosity rather than romantic admiration?
- Why is Toad eager to interpret attention as proof of his importance?
- How does the gap between behavior and interpretation create comedy?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does Toad turn genuine kindness into evidence of his own importance? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: How does Toad turn genuine kindness into evidence of his own importance? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Toad interprets practical kindness as admiration because his self-image makes attention automatically confirm his importance. The girl's behavior is evidence of help; Toad converts it into evidence about himself.
EVIDENCE	Separate what the girl actually does from what Toad concludes her actions mean about his charm or status.
WATCH FOR	Do not simply call Toad conceited. Show the mechanism of self-serving interpretation.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

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How does Toad turn genuine kindness into evidence of his own importance?

START ANCHOR	Toad sat up on end once more, dried his eyes, sipped his tea and munched his toast, and soon began talking freely about himself
END ANCHOR	she was a comely lass, and evidently admired him very much.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Underline what the girl actually says or does for Toad. Circle the places where Toad interprets those actions as admiration. Write EVIDENCE beside her behavior and TOAD'S VERSION beside his conclusions.
2. NOTICE - What evidence shows kindness or curiosity rather than romantic admiration? Why is Toad eager to interpret attention as proof of his importance? How does the gap between behavior and interpretation create comedy?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: How does Toad turn genuine kindness into evidence of his own importance?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.